

founding document and not in a filibuster. To do anything else dishonors the Constitution and relegates it to a mere rule of procedure.

I am pleased that we have reached a common ground on three of the judicial nominees. I am pleased that we have recognized our duties as Members of this body to uphold the Constitution. But I would ask my colleagues for fairness as we move forward for the rest of the session, for the rest of this Congress, to put partisan politics aside and to fulfill our advise and consent obligations on all nominations. As we move through the rest of the Congress, let's vote up or down and end this debate about filibusters with honor.

Mr. President, I am excited that we can now move forward.

I yield to the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, it seems as though we need to do closing script, and if the Senator from Iowa will yield to me, I will be glad to do that formality.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached statement from the President of the United States be entered into the RECORD today pursuant to the War Powers Resolution (P.L. 93-148) and P.L. 107-40.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2005.

Hon. TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am providing this supplemental consolidated report, prepared by my Administration and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed about deployments of U.S. combat-equipped armed forces around the world. This supplemental report covers operations in support of the global war on terrorism, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Since September 24, 2001, I have reported, consistent with Public Law 107-40 and the War Powers Resolution, on the combat operations in Afghanistan against al-Qaida terrorists and their Taliban supporters, which began on October 7, 2001, and the deployment of various combat-equipped and combat-support forces to a number of locations in the Central, Pacific, and Southern Command areas of operation in support of those operations and of other operations in our global war on terrorism.

I will direct additional measures as necessary in the exercise of the U.S. right to

self-defense and to protect U.S. citizens and interests. Such measures may include short-notice deployments of special operations and other forces for sensitive operations in various locations throughout the world. It is not possible to know at this time either the precise scope or duration of the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the United States.

United States Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners, continue to conduct the U.S. campaign to pursue al-Qaida terrorists and to eliminate support to al-Qaida.

These operations have been successful in seriously degrading al-Qaida's training capabilities. United States Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners, ended the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and are actively pursuing and engaging remnant al-Qaida and Taliban fighters. Approximately 90 U.S. personnel are also assigned to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. The U.N. Security Council authorized the ISAF in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1386 of December 20, 2001, and has reaffirmed its authorization since that time, most recently, for a 12-month period from October 13, 2004, in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1563 of September 13, 2004. The mission of the ISAF under NATO command is to assist the Government of Afghanistan in creating a safe and secure environment that allows reconstruction and the reestablishment of Afghan authorities. Currently, all 26 NATO nations contribute to the ISAF. Ten non-NATO contributing countries also participate by providing military and other support personnel to the ISAF.

The United States continues to detain several hundred al-Qaida and Taliban fighters who are believed to pose a continuing threat to the United States and its interests. The combat-equipped and combat-support forces deployed to Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in the U.S. Southern Command area of operations since January 2002 continue to conduct secure detention operations for the approximately 520 enemy combatants at Guantanamo Bay.

The U.N. Security Council authorized a Multinational Force (MNF) in Iraq under unified command in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1511 of October 16, 2003, and reaffirmed its authorization in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1546 of June 8, 2004, noting the Iraqi Interim Government's request to retain the presence of the MNF. Under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1546, the mission of the MNF is to contribute to the security and stability in Iraq, as reconstruction continues, until the completion of Iraq's political transformation. These contributions include assisting in building the capability of the Iraqi security forces and institutions, as the Iraqi people, represented by the Transitional National Assembly, draft a constitution and establish a constitutionally elected government. The U.S. contribution to the MNF is approximately 139,000 military personnel.

In furtherance of our efforts against terrorists who pose a continuing and imminent threat to the United States, our friends and allies, and our forces abroad, the United States continues to work with friends and allies in areas around the globe. United States combat-equipped and combat-support forces are located in the Horn of Africa region, and the U.S. forces headquarters element in Djibouti provides command and control support as necessary for military operations against al-Qaida and other international terrorists in the Horn of Africa region, including Yemen. These forces also assist in enhancing counterterrorism capabilities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, and

Djibouti. In addition, the United States continues to conduct maritime interception operations on the high seas in the areas of responsibility of all of the geographic combatant commanders. These maritime operations have the responsibility to stop the movement, arming, or financing of international terrorists.

NATO-LED KOSOVO FORCE (KFOR)

As noted in previous reports regarding U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo, the U.N. Security Council authorized Member States to establish KFOR in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999. The mission of KFOR is to provide an international security presence in order to deter renewed hostilities; verify and, if necessary, enforce the terms of the Military Technical Agreement between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (which is now Serbia and Montenegro); enforce the terms of the Undertaking on Demilitarization and Transformation of the former Kosovo Liberation Army; provide day-to-day operational direction to the Kosovo Protection Corps; and maintain a safe and secure environment to facilitate the work of the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Currently, there are 23 NATO nations contributing to KFOR. Eleven non-NATO contributing countries also participate by providing military personnel and other support personnel to KFOR. The U.S. contribution to KFOR in Kosovo is about 1,700 U.S. military personnel, or approximately 10 percent of KFOR's total strength of approximately 17,000 personnel. Additionally, U.S. military personnel occasionally operate from Macedonia, Albania, and Greece in support of KFOR operations.

The U.S. forces have been assigned to a sector principally centered around Gnjilane in the eastern region of Kosovo. For U.S. KFOR forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. The KFOR operates under NATO command and control and rules of engagement. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels; provides a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside; and organizes checkpoints and patrols in key areas to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence.

In accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244, UNMIK continues to transfer additional competencies to the Kosovo provisional Institutions of Self-Government, which includes the President, Prime Minister, multiple ministries, and the Kosovo Assembly. The UNMIK retains ultimate authority in some sensitive areas such as police, justice, and ethnic minority affairs.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. NATO has adopted the Joint Operations Area plan to regionalize and rationalize its force structure in the Balkans. The UNMIK international police and the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) have full responsibility for public safety and policing throughout Kosovo except in the area of South Mitrovica, where KFOR and UNMIK share this responsibility due to security concerns. The UNMIK international police and KPS also have begun to assume responsibility for guarding patrimonial sites and established border-crossing checkpoints. The

KFOR augments security in particularly sensitive areas or in response to particular threats as needed.

NATO HEADQUARTERS—SARAJEVO IN BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA

Pursuant to the June 2004 decision made by NATO Heads of State and Government, and in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1575 of November 22, 2004, NATO concluded its Stabilization Force (SFOR) operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and established NATO Headquarters—Sarajevo to continue to assist in implementing the Peace Agreement in conjunction with a newly established European Force (EUFOR). NATO Headquarters—Sarajevo, to which approximately 235 U.S. personnel are assigned, is, with EUFOR, the legal successor to SFOR. The principal tasks of NATO Headquarters—Sarajevo are providing advice on defense reform and performing operational supporting tasks, such as counterterrorism and supporting the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in all of these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. Officials of my Administration and I communicate regularly with the leadership and other Members of Congress with regard to these deployments, and we will continue to do so.

MEMORIAL DAY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to reflect on this year's Memorial Day and the importance of this holiday in American life.

As I attend Memorial Day parades and commemorations, I am struck by the spirit of national unity because I know that across Michigan and across our Nation our fellow Americans are taking part in similar gatherings where we take the time to reflect on our history and the sacrifice that brought us to where we are today.

Memorial Day is unique among American holidays. On Memorial Day we do not honor a particular date or event, a battle or the end of a war. On Memorial Day we do not honor an individual leader—a President or a general. On Memorial Day we do not even honor ourselves at least not in the present tense.

On Memorial Day we pay homage to the thousands and thousands of individual acts of bravery and sacrifice that stretch back to the battlefields of our revolution and to those taking place today in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan.

This year, Memorial Day has a special significance as the 60th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima. This past February marks the dates in history that cost nearly 26,000 lives. The service members involved in that battle responded with courage and bravery. Iwo Jima is one of the most important battles of World War II. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we pay respect to the veterans of Iwo Jima and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

This Memorial Day we also honor the men and women currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. We must honor

our commitment to them by making sure they have everything they need to complete their mission and come home safely. We must also keep our promises to those who proudly served our country by making sure they receive the benefits they deserve.

So, as we observe this holiday we call Memorial Day, let us remember the centuries of sacrifice by the many men and women that this day represents. And let's make sure that all who served with honor are honored in return.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE PASSING OF GEORGE POOLE

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to comment on the passing of a dedicated, 28-year employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs Insurance Center, Mr. George Poole. Until his untimely death, Mr. Poole served within the VA Insurance Service, widely regarded as a model of efficiency and service excellence within the Federal Government.

We in the Congress spent a considerable amount of time on the supplemental appropriations bill debating enhancements to insurance benefits for our servicemembers fighting abroad. We were successful in not only increasing the amount of life insurance benefits available for servicemembers, but also creating a new traumatic injury insurance benefit for those severely disabled. Without the assistance of public servants like George, who provide the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the Congress, with invaluable technical assistance on all legislation affecting insurance benefits, our job would be very difficult.

George began his life-long dedication to public service while serving honorably in the U.S. Air Force from 1964 through 1968. Subsequent to his service, he then received a bachelor's degree and a law degree, taking full advantage of the Department of Veterans Affairs-administered GI bill. There is little doubt that his time in the military service of his country, and his subsequent studies under the GI bill, inspired him to pursue a career dedicated to helping his fellow veterans. This dedication to fellow veterans translated into a long and distinguished 28-year career with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs where he served his Nation from 1977 until his death.

His long career with the Department of Veterans Affairs was entirely within the Insurance Service where he served in an impressive litany of capacities. Starting as a claims examiner in the death claims activity, he worked his way up through numerous management level positions including section chief, division chief and finally culminating his distinguished career as chief, program administration, a senior management position. In this, the final step in

his career ladder, he was responsible for a variety of duties, not the least of which was composing legislative initiatives concerning servicemembers' and veterans' group life insurance programs. This insurance coverage is intended for members of this Nation's Active-Duty military and Reserve components, as well as veterans recently released from Active service, who are in, or recently were in, harm's way defending the United States. The importance of assuring that all members of the military, veterans, and their families are properly provided for in their time of need goes without question. Therefore, George's work will undoubtedly have a lasting effect on the families of thousands.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation on behalf of a grateful Nation to the Poole family for George's dedicated service to this Nation's veterans. I also extend my heartfelt sympathies to the Poole family during their time of sorrow. •

TRIBUTE TO GLENN D. CUNNINGHAM

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, Today I wish to pay tribute to one of New Jersey's most acclaimed advocates of social justice, mayor and State senator Glenn D. Cunningham, on the 1-year anniversary of his passing.

Although Glenn's life was tragically cut short by a heart attack, his extraordinary legacy of public service lives on. His remarkable accomplishments are surpassed only by the love he felt for his family, friends, and the people in the community he served.

A lifelong resident of Jersey City, Glenn demonstrated his sense of duty early in life, enlisting in the United States Marine Corps after he completed high school. He served his country with distinction for four years, and then continued his commitment to public safety by joining the Jersey City Police Department in 1967.

Aided by a strong work ethic and intelligence, Glenn rose through the ranks of the department over the next 25 years, attaining the position of Captain. Realizing the value of education and the power of ideas, during this same time period he attended Jersey City State College and earned a bachelor's degree, graduating cum laude in 1974.

Glenn had a passion for helping people and the ability to take on many diverse responsibilities and perform many tasks at once. He expanded his public service career in 1975, serving as a Hudson County Freeholder until 1978. He was subsequently elected to the Jersey City Council, where he served two consecutive terms, including one term as city council president.

Upon his retirement from the police department in 1991, Glenn was appointed the director of the Hudson County Department of Public Safety.

In 1996, President Clinton appointed Glenn as United States Marshall for